

LaFayette Central School District

LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School
3122 Route 11 North
LaFayette, NY 13084

Big Picture School
3122 Route 11 North
LaFayette, NY 13084

C. Grant Grimshaw Elementary
5957 Route 20 West
LaFayette, NY 13084

Onondaga Nation School
Route 11A RR#1 Box 270
Nedrow, NY 13120

Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW,
Washington, DC 20554

October 23, 2017

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing today in response to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Public Notice which, among other things, considers changes to the E-Rate program. Before delving into my response to the proposed changes, I want to thank the FCC for your continued support for the E-Rate program and for the critical programmatic and policy changes the commission adopted in 2014. The E-Rate program provides critical discounts to assist schools (like mine) to obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.

My school district is a small rural school district located just south of Syracuse, New York with 884 students. We serve approximately 230 Native American students who live on the Onondaga Nation and approximately 49% of students receive free or reduced lunches. We use our E-Rate program to provide students with Chromebooks for classroom learning, credit recovery, and access to advanced coursework. We rely on this vital funding source to fund our student programs.

The E-Rate program is a program succeeding in its mission. As the FCC moves forward with this public notice, it is prudent to remain focused on the fact that E-Rate is a program that works. Any changes to the E-Rate program should be focused on expanding a successful program that has yet to reach its full potential and ensuring the FCC remains a good steward of the changes adopted 2014, allowing those changes to progress and play out as intended. E-Rate played a critical role is the rapid and significant expansion of connectivity in schools, and the 2014 modernization was a much needed update to ensure more schools and libraries are connected to broadband. The E-Rate's investment in Category 2 Wi-Fi and internal connections funding is extremely valuable and could not be replaced by school, district or state funds.

We anticipate using our E-Rate Category 2 allotment to enhance student learning opportunities through technology. In closing, I reiterate my district's continued, strong support for and reliance upon the E-Rate program for being able to access and afford the high-speed connectivity that is so central to our students' learning. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jeremy L. Belfield". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Jeremy L. Belfield
Superintendent of Schools
LaFayette Central School District